

FEES AND CHARGES -RECOMMENDED FEE INCREASES FOR 2014/15 APPENDIX E

Service	Fees and Charges for 2014/15	2013/14 Price £	2014/15 Price £	Incr. £	% Increase	Income (Reduction)/Increase	Total Budget 2014/15 £	Fee Principles Applied	Options considered/Rationale	Benchmarking Information	Date of Price Increase
Car Parks:											
New Town:											
Short Stay	Mon-Saturday up to 1 hour	£1.30	£1.50	£0.20	15.4%	93,000		Y		Welwyn, Bedford, and North Herts short stay charges vary between £1.10 and £2.20 for the first hour and two hour fees. The Railway fees vary from £4.00 per day to £9.00 depending on the service, for instance Bedford is £7.90 with Welwyn/Hatfield at £6.40, Milton Keynes charges £9.00. These are this years prices and are likely to increase from Jan 2014	
	Mon-Saturday up to 2 hour	£1.80	£2.00	£0.20	11.1%	62,000		Y			
	Mon-Saturday up to 3 hour	£2.80	£2.90	£0.10	3.6%	4,350		Y			
	Sunday	£1.50	£1.60	£0.10	6.7%	9,400		Y			
	Night Parking 7pm to 7am	£1.50	£1.60	£0.10	6.7%	1,250		Y			
Long stay	Mon-Fri before 8.30am	£6.50	£6.80	£0.30	4.6%	3,900		Y	A free parking offer for 30mins in the St Georges is likely to negatively impact revenues by between £30,000 pa and £60,000 pa. It may also draw custom from the nearby on street parking. Holding the St Georges tariff only to this years rate will reduce the "Income Increase" by £5,000	The Town Centre Parking 'Long Stay' varies from £3.50 to £7.00 in Bedford, £4.00 in NHDC and £8.00 in Milton Keynes.	
	Mon-Fri 8.30am to 7pm	£3.80	£4.00	£0.20	5.3%	16,600		Y			
	Sunday	£1.50	£1.60	£0.10	6.7%			Y			
	Night Parking 7pm to 7am	£1.50	£1.60	£0.10	6.7%			Y			
Railways	Mon-Frid 4am to 4am	£6.50	£6.70	£0.20	3.1%	15,500		Y			The improvement in the offer available to shoppers with the new Next and H&M to open soon helps sustain the increase without compromising market growth/penetration. The improvements currently being made to the Railway Station and Platforms, and pent up demand for railway parking should ensure continued demand for the railway parking product.
Railways	Sunday	£4.50	£5.00	£0.50	11.1%	4,000		Y			
Railways	Saturday	£5.50	£6.70	£1.20	21.8%	3,000		Y			
Season Tickets	New Town (price per month)	£73.50	£75.00	£1.50	2.0%	5,510			There are currently 306 season ticket holders in the New Town There are currently 70 season ticket holders in the Railway car parks	01 January 2014	
	Rail (price per month)	£126.00	£130.00	£4.00	3.2%	3,360					
New Town Total						221,870					
Old Town:											
Primett Rd North	Mon-Sat 0600-1600hrs	>1hr £0.60	£0.70	£0.10	16.7%	3,000		Y	The Old Town price increase last year came after a two year freeze and reflects inflationary and other cost pressures. This year with the need to maintain the differential pricing with the new town it was felt the 10p rise was sustainable in the Short Stay and 20p in the Long Stay		
	>2hr	£1.10	£1.20	£0.10	9.1%	960		Y			
	>3hrs	£1.60	£1.70	£0.10	6.2%	220		Y			
	3hrs>	£5.00	£5.00	£0.00	0.0%	0		Y			
Primett Rd South	Mon-Fri										
	0600-1600hrs	£2.20	£2.40	£0.20	9.1%	7,400		Y			
	1600-0600hrs	£0.20	£0.30	£0.10	50.0%			Y			
	Sat 0600-1600	£0.60	£0.70	£0.10	16.7%			Y			
	>1hr	£1.10	£1.20	£0.10	9.1%			Y			
	>2hrs	£1.60	£1.70	£0.10	6.2%			Y			
	>3hrs	£2.20	£2.40	£0.20	9.1%			Y			
	3hrs>	£0.20	£0.30	£0.10	50.0%			Y			
Church Lane North	Mon-Sat 0600-1600hrs										
	>1hr	£0.60	£0.70	£0.10	16.7%			Y			
	>2hrs	£1.10	£1.20	£0.10	9.1%			Y			
	>3hrs	£1.60	£1.70	£0.10	6.2%			Y			
	3hrs>	£2.20	£2.40	£0.20	9.1%			Y			
	Sat 1600-Mon 0600hrs							Y			
Season Tickets	Old Town (price per month)	£41.80	£43.50	£1.70	4.1%	2,530		Y	There are 124 season tickets in the Old Town currently		
Old Town Total						14,110					
Loss of income due to price increase All Car Parks						(11,930)			Assume 5% attrition rate		
						224,050	3,515,170				
On Street Parking	30 minutes	£0.50	£0.50	£0.00	0.0%	0	0	Y	In 2011/12 we charged 50p for half a hour Pay & Display and received £44,806. In 2012/13 we raised the charge to 60p but instead of increasing by 20%, income fell to £39,267. In 2013/14, we dropped the charge back to 50p but the income continues to fall and is now projected to bring in about £36,000 for the year. We do not feel that there is sufficient demand to justify another rise in the fee for 2014/15		
						0	0				
Garages	General	£9.25	£9.45	£0.20	2.0%	53,800	2,743,730	N	The garages have been suffering over the previous two financial years with an increased number of voids and high churn rates (there was a 2.5% increase in rent in each year with an increase in voids in 2011/12 of 103 garages and in 2012/13 of 59 garages). During this financial year with a 1.5% we have stabilised the garage void figure and seen a slight increase in the garages let figure. Although an increase of 3% across the board would see a predicted rise in budget this could well be offset by a dramatic increase in the voids rates and consequently increased staff time and costs in managing the voids and is therefore considered to be counterproductive. A 2% increase in rent for 2014/15 would give us the same garage let figure as we have at present.	These are the current charges levied by other Councils for the current financial year. Council tenants at Welwyn and Hatfield pay £9.63, North Herts. Homes pay £10.00, St Albans pay £9.34, Luton pay £6 and Harlow pay £9 per week. Non Council Tenants charges on average £2 higher per week due to VAT treatment.	01 April 2014
	Premium	£9.80	£10.00	£0.20	2.0%			N			
						53,800	2,743,730				
Abandoned Vehicles:	0% increase on the budget			£0.00	0.0%		1,000	Y	Current level of budgeted income not being realised-no increase proposed. Scrap metal value over the last 12 months has increased, which has reduced the number of abandoned cars.	Not applicable (budget reduced).	
Bulky Waste:	6 Items Cancellation Fee	£45.00	£50.00	£5.00	10.0%	6,000	66,160	Y	Concessions price to remain at 50%.	Benchmarked against other Local Authorities. North Herts. £58.90 for 4 items. Cancellation fee to be kept as is.	01 January 2014
						6,000	66,160				

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Cemeteries:	2.5% increase on the budget recommended by officer.				2.5%	3,770	154,355	Y	The income level just on par with the profiled budget.	Benchmarked against other Local Authorities. Broxbourne costs £650 for a 8 foot plot. SBC will be £572 for a 8 foot plot. SBC single burial will be £366, Dacorum at £399. Single interment cost will be £327. Broxbourne cost £330.	01 January 2014
						3,770	154,355				
Markets:	In November 2011 a reduction in fees of 20% was agreed. Various rates across the market exist. No increase in fees are being considered for 2014/15			0	0.0%	0	430,100	N	At the reviews so far it has been agreed that no increase is justified due to the continuing economic situation and also the footfall and trade across the Indoor Market. The voids in the Indoor Market in October 2012 were at the lowest of 6 and at present they are 29. We have lost traders due the economic situation but we have lost a number of traders to shops in Market Place, Park Place and the neighbourhood shops during this period. The Indoor Market has proven to be a good feeder for businesses moving into local shops and that's why the shop void rate in the town is quite low compared to other towns. The MTA in this financial year have requested a further two rent reductions which have been declined especially when a comparison of other local Indoor Markets were carried out and our rents were better than Watford's and comparable to Luton's. Also recently we have stabilised the void rate and have started to get new traders start in the Indoor Market and also some old traders looking to come back into the Indoor Market. It is recommended there is no increase in charges until April 2015 but we retain the option to increase rents through our quarterly reviews if the voids decrease or there is an economic upturn.	Average prices per square foot of various indoor Markets - Stevenage = £0.22 , Luton = £0.17 and Watford £0.70 - Watford now follow a similar regime to the Council in providing a range of start up packages and escalating fees for new businesses.	Not applicable
						0	430,100				
Highways:	Street Name and Numbering: New builds and conversions:										01 January 2014
	First 1 dwelling	£55.00	£56.00	£1.00	1.8%			Y			
	Next 10 dwellings (per dwelling)	£33.00	£34.00	£1.00	2.9%			Y			
	Next 50 dwellings (per dwelling)	£11.00	£12.00	£1.00	8.3%			Y			
	Further dwellings (per dwelling)	£6.00	£7.00	£1.00	14.3%			Y			
	Naming of a new street	£165.00	£170.00	£5.00	2.9%			Y			
Other:	Renaming of existing street	£220.00	£225.00	£5.00	2.2%			Y			
	Change of House name, or adding alias name	£55.00	£57.00	£2.00	3.5%	100		Y			
						100	2,100				
Carriage Crossing	current application / survey fee	£55.00	£60.00	£5.00	8.3%	5,000		Y	Above inflation increase should be possible without deterring applicants too much.		
						5,000	56,000				
Planning:	Pre-application for major developments advice officers recommended 0%	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ -	0.0%			Y			
	Major development	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ -	0.0%			Y			
	Provision of 10 up to 24 dwelling units or where the site area is 0.5 – 1ha.	£ 2,000	£ 2,000	£ -	0.0%						
	Change of use of buildings or new commercial floor space up to 2000sqm.	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ -	0.0%						
	25 or more residential units or where floor area exceeds 1ha. 2000sqm or more commercial floor space	£ 2,000	£ 2,000	£ -	0.0%						
	Change of use of buildings or new commercial floor space exceeding 2000sqm.	£ 150	£ 150	£ -	0.0%						
	Minor Developments single dwelling/ replacement dwelling										
						0	25,500				
Parks and Open Spaces:	2.5% increase on the budget recommended by officers				2.5%	3,120	127,980		Concessions at Ridlins Track are for under 18's. The charge for kitchen pavilion was introduced in 2011/12, no increase is being proposed on increasing this fee.		
						3,120	127,982				
Allotments:	Price per rod	£5.94	£7.10	£1.16	19.5%			Y			
	5 Rod allotment	£29.70	£35.50	£5.80	19.5%			Y			
	10 Rod allotment	£59.40	£71.00	£11.60	19.5%			Y			
						3,190	19,180		The increase needs to be notified 12 months in advance, concessions would pay 20% increase. Proposed increase for 2015/16 is 10%	Benchmarked against other Local Authorities. NHDC per rod £11.20, 5 rod £56 and 10 rod £112. NHDC charges static following 100% increase in charges two years ago.	01 January 2014
Fishing:	Adult Day Ticket	£6.00	£7.00	£1.00	16.7%						
	Junior Day Ticket	£4.00	£5.00	£1.00	25.0%						
	Night Fishing	£13.00	£15.00	£2.00	15.4%						
						370	2,695		Fishery contract is managed by WGC Angling Club, on our behalf. Cash is paid for ticket sales at FVP so round figures are required for ease on site. Income generated to SBC is to be used to undertake improvements to site and thereby increase income generation in future.		01 June 2014
	Additional costs for site improvement					(370)					
						0	2,695				

	Stevenage £	Watford £	East Herts £	North Herts £
New street with 7 houses	430	300	350	735
New street with 10 houses	532	300	350	1,050
New street with 70 houses	1,274	550	650	7,350
Change existing house name	57	50	50	105

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Trade Refuse:	12% increase in fees to cover additional increase in disposal costs (example of pricing shown, 1100 litre bin)	£14.25	£16.05	£1.80	12.6%	51,940	515,690	Y	Higher increase to base budget to offset increase in disposal and gate fees	Benchmarked against other local providers (1100 bin). Biffa £16.69 and Veolia £14.95.	01 January 2014
Clinical Waste:	10% increase in fees to cover additional increase in disposal costs example of pricing shown (Clinical box)	£8.20	£9.00	£0.80	9.8%	3,810	45,430	Y	Higher increase to base budget to offset increase in disposal and gate fees	Benchmarked against SRCL £17.40	01 January 2014
Skips:	6% increase in fees to cover additional increase in disposal costs (example of pricing shown 6yard skip)	£201.58	£213.75	£12.17	6.0%	7,750	136,900	Y	Higher increase to base budget to offset increase in disposal and gate fees	Benched marked against other providers such as Stevenage Skip Hire £210 for 6yd skip.	01 January 2014
Transfer Station:	6% increase in fees to cover additional increase in disposal costs				6.0%	2,030	35,820	Y	Higher increase to base budget to offset increase in disposal and gate fees		01 January 2014
Increase disposal cost of waste for Trade, Clinical, Skips and Transfer Station						(22,000)			The income above is shown gross of increased disposal costs		01 January 2014
Hackney Carriages:						5,900		Y	Charges cannot be increased without consultation & approval by General Purposes committee. Current charges were set in 2009 and have been reviewed this year based on cost recovery.	Not applicable, cost recovery only	01 April 2014
						5,900	0				
Environmental Health & Licensing:											
	Animal Control	various		various		300		Y	Charges to be increased to maximise income as far as possible. Smaller increases proposed for pests which are known disease vectors to maximise take up and reduce risk (e.g. to £50 for rats/mice). No significant increase in charges for return of stray dogs is proposed to maximise chance of dog being claimed.	Pest control charges benchmarked against other local authorities. NHDC charge for treatment of rats/mice - £59.50	01 January 2014
	Housing Act 2004	various		various	6%-10%	240		Y	Cost recover only permissible under legislation	Not applicable, cost recovery only	
	Licensing including, Acupuncture, sex establishments, street trading etc	various		0		4,480		Y	The majority of fees are set by legislation or are already at the maximum permitted. The remainder can only be charged at a level which recovers costs (excluding enforcement). It is proposed that a fee of £36 be introduced for commercial traders at Stevenage Day/carnival/other open air events. No charge is proposed for voluntary/charity traders for these events.	Not applicable, cost recovery only	
						5,020	0				
Net Increase in Fees						353,480					

Where there are multiple fees in a service area, an example has been given to demonstrate the price increases